Student Code of Conduct

Classical Academy
ALBERTA

Principles

Alberta Classical Academy aims to provide a welcoming, well ordered, and secure environment that maintains the highest academic standards for a community of learning. Our expectations for students, and our approach to maintaining discipline, are informed by the following principles:

- The highest end of education is to foster wisdom and moral excellence. Our goal is to help young learners cultivate their characters and grow in virtues, both intellectual and moral. This includes the virtues of benevolence, honesty, humaneness, integrity, wisdom, justice, prudence, fortitude, temperance, and magnanimity.
- All persons are bearers of souls possessing a sacred worth and dignity, irrespective of race, sex, creed, or ability.
- Education is best pursued in a spirit of friendship and leisure. The formation of the human personality demands diligence and attention, but it also requires space for stillness and contemplation away from distraction, unnecessary anxiety, and material exigencies.
- Students thrive in an environment that provides stability, order, belonging, and love. We understand that structure and high expectations are not incompatible with the spirit of leisure or the pursuit of freedom, but are preconditions for them.
- Habits of outward conduct and behaviour play an important role in shaping habits of mind. Through participation in a disciplined and well-ordered environment, students learn to order their own souls well.
- Behavioural policies and expectations should be detailed, clearly communicated, and consistently applied. School faculty and staff enforce these expectations in a manner that is fair, kind-hearted, and firm, and oriented toward enhancing the common good of the community and the well-being of the individual pupil.
- Student discipline is carried out with reference to Aristotle's golden mean, which connects the practice of virtue with reason.[1]
- While we expect students to seek moral and intellectual excellence, we recognize that this is a ceaseless process, and that mistakes are inevitable. Where correction is merited, it is carried out in a spirit of respect for the student and for the person they are to become, and should never be carried out with intent to cause humiliation or fear.
- Learning is a collaborative activity among friends and colleagues, as idealized by Socratic conversation and dialectic. Learning takes place in the encounter of persons seeking wisdom, who converse with one another, and who give thanks to the teacher or fellow students who can help illuminate understanding. This Socratic place of learning—which depends on the maintenance of trust and good will— is a safe space for students to think and to seek truth freely in friendship with others.

[1] Excellent action is "concerned with choice, lying in a mean relative to us, this being determined by reason and in the way in which the man of practical wisdom would determine it." (Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, 1107a)



- As they mature, children benefit from opportunities to take responsible risks, to solve problems independently without adult intervention, and to encounter and overcome trials with grace and fortitude.[2] We therefore aim to provide a stable and supportive community where students grow in resilience, take responsibility for their actions, and challenge themselves physically, emotionally, and intellectually.

[2] "The truly good and wise man will bear all kinds of fortune in a seemly way, and will always act in the noblest manner that the circumstances allow." (Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, 1100b)